

**WASHINGTON, DC** –“ Congressman Joe Courtney released the following statement after learning that Defense Appropriations Chairman John “Jack” Murtha has passed away at age 77.

“While I only had the fortunate opportunity to work with Chairman Murtha for three years of his 19 terms in Congress, I appreciate his constant willingness to always lend me a hand to get Electric Boat’s workers building more submarines on the Groton waterfront.”

“Chairman Murtha’s leadership and commitment to working families in Connecticut will be felt for a long, long time in the jobs he helped to save at Electric Boat. We owe him a collective debt of gratitude.”

“A Vietnam Veteran, Jack’s pledge to put our men and women in uniform first was evident in the work that he did to make sure our troops had the resources they needed to serve more safely in combat. When he became Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee, Representative Murtha made sure our troops had the mine resistant vehicles they needed and the medical care they deserved.”

“A longtime public servant who fought for the middle-class and a veteran, Chairman Murtha was a man who understood the meaning of service. He will be missed.”